

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/664,682

Examiner

Qi Han

Applicant(s)

MITSUI, SUGURU

Art Unit

2654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 04/20/2005 and 06/07/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5,6,9,10,13 and 14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 September 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Response to Amendment

2. This communication is responsive to the applicant's amendment dated 04/20/2005 and RCE examination request filed on 06/07/2005. The Applicant(s) amended independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 (also see examiner's amendment below).

Examiner's Amendment

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment is given by the applicant's representative, Thomas F. Presson, through a telephone call on 8/18/2005. The Examiner's Amendment is as following:

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In the claims (refer to the amendment filed on 04/20/2005):

Claim 1, see page 3, first line of the claim, after “An information processing device”, insert --for processing sound data and picture data to generate a composed picture,--.

Claim 5, see page 4, first line of the claim, after “An information processing device”, insert --for processing sound data and picture data to generate a composed picture,--.

Claim 13, see page 7, replace the first two lines (preamble) of the claim with --A computer readable medium, storing a program that makes an information processing device execute the program to generate a composed picture, comprising:--.

-----**End of Examiner's Amendment**-----

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9-10 and 13-14 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent **claims 1, 5, 9 and 13**, the instant application is directed to an apparatus (device), method and computer readable medium for processing sound data and picture data to generate a composed picture. Each independent claim, combining other well-known features, identifies the uniquely distinct features of switching and selecting one among a plurality of registered pictures as a selected picture on the basis of a level (intensity --- interpreted as magnitude or power) of a first frequency band of the analyzed sound signal, when a first judging means judges that said level of said first frequency band is above a first predetermined threshold

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value; displaying a composed picture by composing the frequency-analyzed picture and said selected picture, when a second judging means judges that said level of a second frequency band is below a second predetermined threshold value; changing a composing method of said frequency analyzed picture and said selected picture on the basis of said level of said second frequency band of the analyzed sound signal, when said second judging means judges that said level of said second frequency band is above said second predetermined threshold value.

5. The prior art of record, White (US 5,734,794), Ohsawa (US 4,973,897) and Gibson (US 6,490,359 B1), provided numerous teachings of alternative techniques and approaches for extracting cues from audio speech to select from among a database of stored image cells to produce synthesized animated characters, analyzing spectrum by detecting signal levels of divided frequency bands, and transforming audio signal into a predefined visual image (three dimensional object) and dynamically changing and adjusting the related parameters of the audio effect images. However, the combined features as stated above, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over the prior art of the record.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

7. Please address mail to be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) as follows:

Mail Stop _____
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to: 571-273-8300, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or: 571-273-8300, (for informal or draft communications, and please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

If no Mail Stop is indicated below, the line beginning Mail Stop should be omitted from the address.

Effective January 14, 2005, except correspondence for Maintenance Fee payments, Deposit Account Replenishments (see 1.25(c)(4)), and Licensing and Review (see 37 CFR 5.1(c) and 5.2(c)), please address correspondence to be delivered by other delivery services (Federal Express (Fed Ex), UPS, DHL, Laser, Action, Purolater, etc.) as follows:

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop _____
Randolph Building
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Qi Han whose telephone numbers is (571) 272-7604. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil, can be reached on (571) 272-7602.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Inquiries regarding the status of submissions relating to an application or questions on the Private PAIR system should be directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028 between the hours of 6 a.m. and midnight Monday through Friday EST, or by e-mail at: ebc@uspto.gov. For general information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

QH/qh
August 18, 2005


DAVID D. KNEPPER
PRIMARY EXAMINER